

Editorial

Either tyranny or the duty to vote

The 1988 presidential election will be this nation's most critical contest since 1860, when Lincoln was made President. The anticipation of that event and the results of the just concluded mid-term election, make us think of the corruption of the electoral process in the United States.

First, too few eligible voters bother to go to the polls to vote. Second, those who do take the trouble and vote, cast their vote *against* someone or something, rather than in favor.

During this year's election, of the approximately 178 million Americans eligible to vote, only some 66 million went to the polls and 112 million stayed home. This was the lowest voter participation rate since 1942. In 1980, when Reagan was elected President, only 52.6% of eligible voters went to the polls. In the great Reagan landslide of 1984, only 51.9% voted. Over the last 50 years, the percentage of participants in presidential elections has been between 50 and 60%. For congressional elections, the rate has been lower, sometimes going as low as 32%.

The reason people do not go to vote is, essentially, discouragement, a brooding, sometimes cynical sense, that there is no hope for them, that their lives, somehow, are so lost, that involvement in the affairs of the republic will not make any difference. Some, among the more thoughtful of the hard-boiled cynics, reckon that "We the People" had the republic stolen from us when the J. P. Morgan coalition established permanent control over both major parties beginning some time in the 1880s. The dejection is understandable, but wrong.

It is understandable, when you look closer, and see who the absentees from the voting booths are. During the 1980 election: 60% of the unemployed did not vote; 70% of Americans of Hispanic origin and 50% of blacks, did not vote; most of the 64 million who did not vote in that year, belonged to the low-income, low-level-of-schooling categories. Contrary to the political myths of the labor movement, under the reign of Lane Kirkland in the AFL-CIO, only 48% of bluecollar workers went to the polls—almost as low a participation rate as that

found among unemployed.

If some 50% of Americans don't vote, they are, for the most part, your "typical" Americans, those who work for a living. Among those who regularly go to the polls, there is a "hard core," who will always do so: government employees on the federal, state, and local level, professionals, managers, and other employees whose jobs are related to the government and its policies.

Given the enormous size and role of big government in recent decades, it appears that the most decisive segment of the voting public is the nearly 18 million government employees and some 11 million managers and administrators, the two groups in our society with the highest voter participation rate—nearing 80%. This group, together with their spouses and a few family members, neighbors, and friends they influence, make up more than half of all the people who go to the polls at any time. The rest, a minority of the active electorate, are a volatile, highly active mass of patriotic persons associated with various passing causes. They created the Reagan phenomenon of the 1980s and the Wallace phenomenon of 1968. But among those who regularly vote, they are a minority. The majority of active voters are associated with government and government jobs, thus tending to perpetuate a plodding bureaucracy, which can be likened to "government of the government, for the government, by the government."

Behind the bootlicking habits of this bureaucracy, lie the interests and policies of the Eastern Establishment banking families, which use the Democratic and Republican parties indifferently. Only one force will break that power in 1988: a massive movement of LaRouche for President, which will organize the patriotic percentile of habitual voters to go out to register, and bring to the polls some 90 million eligible Americans who never voted before because they never believed that the tyranny of the Establishment can be broken.

Make voting your duty, not merely your right, and tyranny will crumble.